

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 02989 231258Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-12 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02

INR-10 INRE-00 L-03 HA-05 SSO-00 PA-01 /072 W

-----129785 231311Z /42

O R 231245Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3447

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USLO RIYADH

CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 02989

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SA

SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF SAUDI PRINCESS

REF: STATE 44536

WE WERE PREDICTABLY UNABLE TO OBTAIN TEXT OF THE SAUDI STATEMENT FROM THE SAUDI EMBASSY ON SHORT NOTICE. IN VIEW OF IMMEDIATE TIMING WE TURNED TO FCO, WHICH PROVIDED US WITH A TEXT. FCO NOTES IT WAS ISSUED, NOT DIRECTLY BY SAUDI EMBASSY, BUT BY BRITISH PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM WITH WHICH SAUDI EMBASSY HAS A CONTRACT, THE E.D. O'BRIEN ORGANIZATION.

BEGIN TEXT:

ON THURSDAY 26 JANUARY THE BBC BROADCAST A NEWS ITEM WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED BY THE BRITISH PRESS. IT HAD ALSO BEEN COMMENTED UPON BY A SPOKESMAN OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE NEWS ITEM ALLEGED THAT A SAUDI PRINCESS AND A SAUDI CITIZEN WHO MARRIED WERE EXECUTED BECAUSE THE MAN DID NOT BELONG TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 02989 231258Z

THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY.

THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT DEEPLY REGRETS THAT SUCH UNFOUNDED NEWS WAS TRANSMITTED OFFICIALLY IN A BROADCAST BY THE BBC WHICH ALSO CARRIED A BRITISH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENT. THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL

APOLOGY FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS COMMENTS
ON THIS PARTICULAR NEWS ITEM. TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE: -
THE SENTENCE CARRIED OUT WAS PASSED BY AN ISLAMIC
COURT AS PUNISHMENT FOR THE ADULTEROUS ACTS COMMITTED

BY THE TWO ACCUSED PERSONS. IT IS A CRIME FOR WHICH
THE PUNISHMENT, ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC LAW (SHARIA),
IS DEATH. THE COUPLE WERE NOT MARRIED AS STATED IN
THE NEWS STORY. THE MARRIAGE OF A PRINCESS WITH A
MAN UNRELATED TO THE ROYAL FAMILY IS NOT CONSIDERED
A CRIME LET ALONE ONE THAT SHOULD BE PUNISHED BY
EXECUTION. THERE ARE MANY PRINCES AND PRINCESSES
MARRIED TO COMMONERS AND THIS IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT
IN THE KINGDOM.

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXECUTIONS, PRINCESS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON02989
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-0106
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780223/aaaaatcw.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d619ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 44536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3507976
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXECUTION OF SAUDI PRINCESS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d619ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014